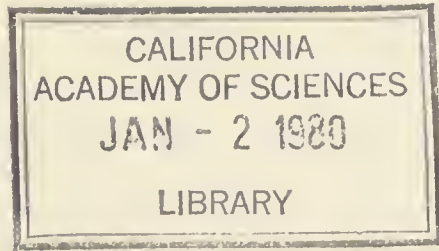


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Volume 62

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January 1980

Number 1

Seals for All Seasons

Sea lions and seals of California will be featured at the January general membership meeting. Biologist Doris Alcorn will be our speaker. Her most recent studies have been concerned with the Harbor Seals of San Francisco Bay and she will share her knowledge of these fascinating creatures which manage to survive and breed in the Bay Area despite being one of nature's most wary animals.

Ms. Alcorn will show slides and a film of Elephant Seals on their breeding grounds at Año Nuevo State Park in San Mateo County. January is the month when crowds gather there to see these behemoths on their hauling-out grounds; the battles of these huge mammals are impressive and some of the slides will illustrate their breeding behavior.

The Guadalupe Fur Seal and the Northern Elephant Seal were almost driven to extinction by man's exploitation. With her slides, Ms. Alcorn will also enable us to visit remote Guadalupe Island where the last of these seals survived and from which the populations have made a comeback.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, at the San Francisco Travelodge at the Wharf, near Pier 39, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Golden Gate Room. Free parking is available in the upper Travelodge parking lot. Take the elevator down to the first level; the meeting room is near the swimming pool and courtyard. See you there!

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Field Trips Calendar

See December *Gull* for details on the following trips:

Saturday, January 5—Palo Alto Baylands Refuge.

Sunday, January 6—Bay Park Refuge, Oakland.

Sunday, January 13—Monterey boat trip for whales.

Sunday, January 20—Monterey boat trip for pelagic birds.

Wednesday, January 9—Mini trip to UC Botanical Gardens. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Botanical Gardens to look for wintering and resident birds. Take Humphry Go-Bart (free bus) from Center St. and Shattuck Ave. in downtown Berkeley (leaves on the half-hour) or drive up Hearst Ave., turn right on Gayley Rd., left on Rimway, left on Centennial Dr. to the gardens. We shall also visit the orchid and tropical nurseries. Rain cancels the trip. Lunch is optional. Leaders: Ruth Voss and Delpha de Timofeev (632-5176).

Saturday, January 12—Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at North Lake near the 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. entrance to the park. We will check the lakes for ducks and assorted winter residents. Lunch optional. Leader: Erlene Hevel (661-4251).

Saturday, January 19—San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 11 a.m. at the refuge headquarters adjacent to the Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza. We will caravan through the Fremont unit of the refuge as we look for wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. This will be a brief introductory tour of the new refuge as this is the first GGAS trip there. Bring scopes and lunch. Leaders: Patti Comerford (Refuge staff member, 792-0222), and Betty Short (GGAS). (✓)

Sunday, January 20—Grizzly and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 north to Fairfield. Exit at West Texas St. and continue to the right (east) for about ½ mile to the Fairfield City Park. Meet at the parking lot on the right at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from there to the refuge area. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and marshbirds. Bring lunch. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7100). (✓)

Saturday, January 26—Dillon Beach. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales where we will stop by the Bank of America building on Hwy. 1 at 8:45 a.m. to meet the people from west Marin. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee). Bring lunch, warm clothes, rain gear and a scope. We may see three species of loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants and Snowy Plovers. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (586-1640). (✓)

Saturday, February 2—Panoche Valley. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker. Leader: Chris Carpenter (376-6802). (✓)

Sunday, February 3—Los Banos State Refuge. Meet at 9 a.m. at the refuge headquarters located 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. Allow 2 ½ to 3 hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and assorted waterfowl. We suggest that people interested in both the Panoche Valley and Los Banos field trips spend Saturday night in Los Banos. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). (✓)

Sunday, February 3—Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Refuge. Meet at 9 a.m. at the sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. in Tiburon. From Hwy. 101 take the Belvedere-Tiburon exit, go east and turn right at the third traffic light: Greenwood Cove Rd. We will look for ducks, shorebirds and courting Western Grebes. Leader: Phil Schaffer (388-2524). (✓)

Bus Trip

Saturday, February 16—Monterey Bay Area. We will ride in the comfort of a chartered bus to many of Monterey's finest birding areas, including the municipal pier, the shoreline to Pt. Piños and the Carmel River mouth. Our leader will be Ted Chandik. The bus will depart from the East Bay at 6:30 a.m. and make stops in San Francisco and Palo Alto. The fare is \$15 per person. For reservations, please send a check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave. #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Details for the trip will be sent with an acknowledgment to the first 35 respondents.

Carpooling:

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). If you need a ride or are offering one, call Kate Partridge at work (642-6881, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or at home before 9 p.m. (548-0779). All expenses, including gas and incidental fees, are shared by riders. It is best for all involved to plan these arrangements with the driver at the outset of the trip.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

November Observations – Through November 28

PELAGICS

The big news began with the rumor that an oceanographic survey boat cruising off California in early October had found **Cook's Petrels**, **Red-tailed Tropicbirds**, **Red-billed Tropicbirds** and **Craveri's Murrelets** (BP, GF)! Last July's Red-tailed Tropicbird at the Farallones appears to be the only other North American (ABA Area) record, and the Cook's Petrels were unprecedented within the ABA limit of 100 miles from land except for an old specimen rather dubiously attributed to Alaska. Only a few dead or dying Mottled (Scaled) Petrels had represented the genus *Pterodroma* (gadfly petrels) in California waters and this genus is little known near North America, so the lure to see healthy individuals coursing the ocean was powerful. Because the Cook's Petrels seemed to favor the Davidson Seamount, about 40 miles west-southwest of Point Sur, these unbirded waters were the destination of boats chartered from Morro Bay in November (DL). Birders who ventured this 24-hour journey were well-rewarded. The Nov. 17 trip found two **Cook's Petrels** (mob), an apparent **Stejneger's Petrel** (RS, GMCC, *et al.* - also unrecorded in North American waters, although collected several hundred miles off California) and four unidentified *Pterodroma* petrels (mob). Again on Nov. 24 two of the gadfly petrels were identified as **Cook's** and four or five were unidentified, including one that appeared to have darker wings (mob). The Nov. 17 boat found two Leach's Storm-Petrels and the Nov. 24 boat had three (mob), proving once more that this species can be seen if boats go farther out. The South Polar Skua on Nov. 17 was quite late (mob). Guess where birding boats will be heading next September and October! Ancient Murrelets were unusually abundant and widespread along the coast (mob), with a maximum of about 200 at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 17 (JR).

FARALLON BREEDERS

The report from Southeast Farallon Island (as always provided by Point Reyes Bird Observatory) gives intriguing observations of some nesting species. For about the second time in a decade the 100,000+ Cassin's Auklets have failed to make nocturnal visits to their burrows in November. This is a dramatic absence, to be sure, but how are we to know the cause? The Western Gulls were already defending nesting territories while at least two Ashy Storm-Petrels still hadn't fledged in late November!

OTHER WATERBIRDS

The diving waterbirds finally arrived; Christmas counts should reveal whether their numbers are normal. At least nine Cattle Egrets appeared

Nov. 4-18 (mob), but most were found on Thanksgiving/NAS Birdathon weekend: at least 30 in 12 locations (mob), including 10 near Alviso Nov. 23 (MD). Two Eurasian Wigeons were at traditional sites Nov. 11, Fleishhacker Zoo (CS) and Charleston Slough, Palo Alto (MH - the one that summered?). Muddy Hollow's Tufted Duck is still present (mob). Our five Oldsquaws were: two at Princeton Harbor Nov. 18-24 (JM, mob), Pt. Richmond Nov. 19 (BR), Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 24 (JMcG) and Pajaro River Nov. 24 (RS). Our seven **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** brought the fall's total to **nine**, approaching the record (at least 11) of 1969. They included the first Farallon record Nov. 7 and two on a salt pond just west of the Dumbarton Bridge Nov. 5 (CS), with one of the latter present the next day (CS, TC). The four on the coast were: Mendoza Pond Oct. 31 (RS, JE), Moss Landing Nov. 2 (RS, mob) and two at Bodega Bay Nov. 23 (JP). Rock Sandpipers settled in on the Farallones (2), at Pebble Beach, San Mateo County (one Nov. 17, two Nov. 20 - JR, *et al.*), and Bodega Head Nov. 11 - JML). The wreck of Red Phalaropes peaked early in November on the coast (many dying - mob) and in the South Bay, where **200-300** were counted daily on the ponds west of Coyote Hills alone (CS). Our earliest Glaucous Gull appeared at Baldwin Creek, Santa Cruz County, Nov. 22 (SA). A Franklin's Gull was at the Bodega Bay jetty Nov. 3 (JM, *et al.*).

TALON TYPES

Bald Eagles were reported only on Nov. 17, two immatures at Tomales Bay (DT, *et al.*) and two adults at Calaveras Reservoir (JM, *et al.*). Rough-legged Hawks are extremely rare on the Farallones, but one was there Nov. 1. Any Swainson's Hawk still around on Oct. 28 ought to be flying south rapidly, even to reach South America a month late; one passing Briones Park was doing so (PW). However, one was reported still lingering at a summer locality, Eight Mile Road near I-5, through Nov. 20 (DEI). Also very late was the Flammulated Owl picked up injured near Woodland in early November and cared for at the Davis Raptor Center (*fide* TB).

DOVES TO STARLINGS

As usual a white-winged Dove appeared on the coast, this time at Salmon Creek, Sonoma County, Nov. 4-5 (BMcC, *et al.*). The **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the Farallones Nov. 7 was the latest ever seen alive in Northern California. Very late but not so exceptional was the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Bodega Bay Nov. 10 (AE, *et al.*). One or two Eastern Phoebes visited Salmon Creek Nov. 4 (BMcC, *et al.*), one day before one was banded on the Farallones. Also on the Island, an Eastern Phoebe seen Nov. 8 may have been the same one (legs not seen) but one on Nov. 12 definitely lacked a band. The **Common (?) Skylark**

was seen again Oct. 31-Nov. 1 (RS, JE, AG, WG) but not since then. Photographs taken Nov. 1 (AG) resemble those from last year (*vide* JM). Tilden Park Botanical Garden hosted a Dipper Nov. 12-23 (GH, VD, *et al.*); this is a site of traditional but irregular occurrence. A Sage Thrasher stopped at the Bolinas Sewage Ponds Oct. 31 (RS, JE) and one found at the west end of Golden Gate Park Nov. 7 lingered at least to Nov. 24 (DEd, mob). The Farallon report includes a possible Red-throated Pipit described Oct. 21. Less welcome visitors to the Island are the 100-500+ Starlings that this past month have been "... riddling the soils of the marine terrace for insect larvae, a resource the shorebirds usually use. The soils of the terrace [thus] look as though there are five billion ant lions making their little conical pits to trap lost ants." Next stop for Starlings - Easter Island.

WARBLERS

This month's table of vagrant warblers uses the same format as last month's; details are explained there. This table lists over 41 new individuals, bringing the fall's total to more than **520**, not far short of 1947's record. **Lucy's Warbler** was the 24th vagrant warbler species this fall. Blackburnian, Prairie and Palm Warblers all extended their new records. Not surprisingly, Palm Warbler dominated the following list:

Black-and-white Warbler (total new 2; 23 for the fall to date)			
1	near Olema Marsh	Oct.-Nov.	RS, <i>et al.</i>
	Muddy Hollow	(Oct. 13-?) Nov. 12	DS
(1)	Carmel River Mouth	(Oct. 25-)Nov. 1	DR
<u>Lucy's Warbler (total 1 for fall)</u>			
1	Farallones	Nov. 2-3	PRBO
Blackburnian Warbler (total 1; <u>14 or 15</u> for fall)			
1	Bodega Bay	Nov. 24	DN, BB, DH
Blackpoll Warbler (total 1; 72+ for fall)			
1	Farallones	Oct. 23	PRBO
Prairie Warbler (total new 1; <u>11</u> for fall)			
(1)	Farallones	(Oct. 16-) Nov. 16	PRBO
1	Farallones	Oct. 29	PRBO
Palm Warbler (total 29+; <u>199+</u> for fall)			
	minimum 19, maximum 49, "best guess" 27		Farallones
	Oct. 22-Nov. 16, Nov. 20 (peaks: 5 on Oct. 27,		
	4 on Nov. 2, 5 on Nov. 9)		PRBO
3	Salmon Creek	Nov. 4-10	BMcC, mob
1	Stinson State Beach	Oct. 31	RS, JE
1	Richardson Bay Sanct.	Nov. 4	MAK, SJK
1	Neary's Lagoon, Sta Cruz	Nov. 10	EM, AM
2	Pt. Pinos	Nov. 1	DR
2	Carmel River Mouth	Nov. 1; Nov. 1-4	DR;DR,EM,AM
Northern Waterthrush (total 1; 6 for fall)			
1	Farallones	Oct. 27	PRBO
<u>Canada Warbler (total 1; 4 for fall)</u>			
1	Bodega Bay	Nov. 10-14	LCB, <i>et al.</i>
American Redstart (total 4; 84+ for fall)			
2	Farallones	Oct. 22; Nov. 8-10	PRBO
1	Stinson State Beach	Oct. 31	RS, JE
1	Natural Bridges St. Beach	Nov. 12	EM, AM

Among lingering summer insectivores, Nashville Warbler seemed especially well reported in November (mob).

ICTERIDS TO SPARROWS

The adult male "Baltimore" Northern Oriole still inhabited Greenwood Park, Pacific Grove, Nov. 18 (DE). In addition to the one at Aquatic Park in San Francisco, there are now two other male **Great-tailed Grackles** present in our area. At Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge headquarters one was first noticed, singing, on Nov. 5 (CT, DJ; TS, *et al.*). Nov. 11 was the discovery date for the one at Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area (BED, *et al.*). A "stunning male" **Hepatic Tanager** was banded and photographed on the Farallones Nov. 11. This was the first late fall record and fifth overall for Northern California. A few Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills continue to be found, with 15 of the former at Point Reyes Station Nov. 22 (*fide* RM), the largest flock reported.

Four Clay-colored Sparrows added to a good fall: Muddy Hollow Nov. 12 (DS), Bodega Marine Lab Nov. 20-23 (PC, *et al.*) and Farallones Oct. 27 and Nov. 11-14. Other scarce sparrows on the Farallones included Grasshopper Sparrows Nov. 12 and 20, Vesper Sparrows Nov. 9-12 and 18 (had been fairly common in October), Black-throated Sparrow still present from Oct. 10 (post-juvenal moult on the Island), "Slate-colored" Junco Nov. 11-14, Tree Sparrow Nov. 8, White-throated Sparrows Nov. 8-9 and 18 and Swamp Sparrow Nov. 1. The initial Olema Marsh Swamp Sparrow was tallied Oct. 31 (RS, JE). At Hall Ranch the 15 Lapland Longspurs stayed through Nov. 1 (mob) and six to Nov. 4 (JW, *et al.*). One Chestnut-collared Longspur remained there on Nov. 4 (JW, *et al.*). At Salmon Creek, two Chestnut-collared Longspurs Nov. 4-5 (BMcC, *et al.*) were followed by two or three Laplands Nov. 10 (LCB, BDP, JP). Another Lapland Longspur was seen intermittently Oct. 31-Nov. 12 on the Farallones. Similarly, a Snow Bunting was noted there Oct. 22 and 25.

Observers: Steve Allison, Ted Beedy, Laurence C. Binford, Betty Burrige, Ted Chandik, Peter Connors, Nancy Conzett, Maryann Danielson, Bruce E. Deuel, Vickie Dziadosz, Art Edwards, David Edwards (DEd), Doug Ellis (Del), Dick Erickson (DE), Jules Evens, Gary Friedrichson, Al Ghorso, Wilma Ghorso, Helen Green, Michael Harer, Dea Harper, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Deborah Jensen (DJ), Dick Johnson, Michael A. Kelly, Shirley J. Kelly, Jeri M. Langham, Debi Love, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Robin May, Brian McCaffery, Guy McCaskie, Dianne McClung, Joe McGee, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan, Doug Morton, Dan Murphy, Pete Myers, Dan Nelson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to

Phil Henderson), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Bob Pitman, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Dan Seaver, Madge Seaver, Dave Shuford (DS), Rich Stallcup, Tom Steller, Chris Swarth, Dorothy Tobkin, Charles Turner, Gil West, Jack Whetstone, Peter White, Stephanie Williams, Jon Winter (JW), Keiko Yamane, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,

University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen Bailey at 642-3327, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Conservation Notes

CALIFORNIA SEABIRD ROOKERY PRESERVED. The second most important seabird rookery on the California coast has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy and will become a wildlife sanctuary. Castle Rock, a 14-acre island just offshore of Crescent City in Del Norte County, seasonally supports as many as 100,000 resident and migratory seabirds including the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose. The island is virtually inaccessible to any predators and is used for breeding by cormorants, murres, Pigeon Guillemots, petrels, Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets and Tufted Puffins. It is also a hauling-out site for sea mammals such as Elephant and Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions.

The Nature Conservancy preserves wildlands through acquisition and so far has helped preserve over 1.6 million acres in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

HUMPBCKS AVOIDING GLACIER BAY. The number of Hump-backed Whales using Glacier Bay, Alaska, where they were once numerous, is declining and the cause seems to be the number of tour boats and cruise ships using the park. Glacier Bay Lodge Company, the park concessionaire, has a new 120-foot boat, The Explorer, that is so noisy the hydrophone used in research aboard the vessel reportedly goes clear off the scale both above and below water.

In Hawaii, where the same Humpbacks that frequent Alaskan waters migrate seasonally to mate and bear young, conservationists are gathering signatures on a petition to establish a federal marine sanctuary. The petition reads, "We believe that increasing human activity in the Humpback's Hawaiian coastal habitat poses a significant threat to the recovery of their severely depleted populations." If you wish further information or want to sign the petition contact General Whale, Box Whales, Alameda, CA 94501 (415) 483-0194.

GG PARK FINAL MASTER PLAN PUBLISHED. The complete and final version of the master plan for the future of Golden Gate Park

has been published and we think it is excellent. It mandates the removal of non-essential roadways, replacing them with natural landscaping and it recognizes the essential importance of wildlife in the park as "a valuable recreation resource." It further states that "requirements for retaining a diverse and healthy wildlife are a variety of vegetation, lake and marsh environments and a park maintenance and reforestation program that continues to recognize these needs." Copies of the plan are available from Golden Gate Park, McLaren Lodge, San Francisco, or may be seen at the GGAS office.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Announcing the GGAS Audubon Adventure Series

In order to continue to provide an ever-increasing selection of activities to our present members and to also attract new members, GGAS will be offering a series of natural history seminars.

GGAS has developed the Audubon Adventure course series in conjunction with National Audubon Society to provide increasing numbers of residents of our community with an opportunity to learn more about the natural history of our area and to be introduced to the Audubon Society, what we stand for and what we do.

Cost of these courses will be \$9 per person for GGAS members plus any additional fees such as facility costs or extra instructor time. If you are not a member of GGAS the cost will be an additional **one-time** fee of \$20 per person or \$25 per family. This additional fee provides a year's membership in GGAS and National Audubon Society which includes subscriptions to *The Gull* and NAS's *Audubon* magazine.

The January courses planned are:

WHALWATCHING IN MENDOCINO, January 19-20: a weekend course on whales, other marine mammals and birds of the Mendocino coast. Participants will watch migrating California Gray Whales from the coastal cliffs or may elect to take a boat trip to see them more closely. There is also a trip planned to the historic lighthouse at Pt. Arena. Hostel-type lodging is available at no extra cost at the Bodega Bay Institute's Pelican House near Pt. Arena. Cost, including the boat trip is \$39.50; if you do not wish to go aboard the boat, the fee will be \$19.50. Instructors for the course will be Dr. Stephen F. Bailey and biologist Ronn Storro-Patterson.

FIRST DAY BIRDING, January 26 (San Francisco, February 3 (East Bay)): an ideal course for those who have never been bird-watching, with instruction covering the basics of this rapidly growing outdoor activity. We will look for common birds in a number of areas where

birding is easily done. Instructors: Dan Murphy (San Francisco), GGAS' Field Trips Chairman, and Susanne Luther (East Bay), a GGAS teacher of ornithology through Piedmont Adult School. Both are veteran birders. Cost: \$9.

To enroll in any of these courses, please send your check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Include course title, its date and the number of people planning to attend.

Future courses we are planning include the following subjects: *Ecology of the Great Egret*, *Natural History of California Mountain Lions*, *Wolves of North America*, *Tide Pool Ecology*, *In Search of the Pacific Giant Salamander*, *East Bay Plant Ecology*, *Natural History of the Sea Otter*, *Mushroom Walk*. If you are interested in these courses please contact the GGAS office at 843-2222.

We Are Committed - Are You?

GGAS intends to become even more effective environmentally in 1980 and has made ambitious plans to achieve this goal. We have committed the chapter to underwrite a research program, directed by Stephen F. Bailey and supervised by Laura Collins, to determine why Northern California's most important Least Tern breeding colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station failed last year. We hope to make a real effort on behalf of Mono Lake and, as in past years, the Emeryville Crescent salt marsh with its endangered wildlife will be of special concern.

The Education Committee intends to expand its successful environmental programs and hopes to create new projects. Many of the suggestions made by the Conservation Committee during the recent process to create a new Golden Gate Park Master Plan were adopted and are included in the park's new plan; GGAS will be available for ideas toward their implementation.

We need your help if all these concerns are to be properly addressed because nearly all our efforts depend on the volunteer cooperation of our members; our Executive Director has only enough time to coordinate existing programs. Volunteers are needed to help run the office and to implement our projects. We will also need donations for the Least Tern Nesting Research Study.

All this indicates the importance of again expanding our membership this year. Methods usually employed to attract new members for any organization are expensive - often as high as \$10 per new member. GGAS considers general mail solicitation too impersonal and too costly. Therefore we are asking all of you to review your Christmas card list and your address book for names of people who might be interested in an Audubon membership. By nominating them you can save GGAS the

dollars it would cost to try to find them by mail. The money saved can be put to better use on GGAS projects.

In appreciation, GGAS will send to everyone nominating a new member a copy of the new map published by National Audubon Society, "Audubon's America," showing all wildlife sanctuaries, national forests and points of natural history. A copy will also be sent to new members.

If you help GGAS by sending us your nominations as soon as you possibly can you will be giving GGAS a belated but tremendously important Christmas present that will benefit us all.

-GGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

Name

Address

.....

I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

Name

Address

.....

I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

Name

Address

.....

I'd like to send a gift membership* to

Name

Address

.....

I wish to make a donation to the GGAS Least Tern Nesting Research

Name

Address

.....

*See back of *Gull* for membership rates.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

ORDER FORM

1979-80

1980 Birders' Calendar and Almanac	\$4.50	X	= \$.....
<i>Birds of Northern California, an Annotated field list</i>	\$5.00	X	= \$.....
Golden Gate Audubon Society shoulder/hat patch	\$1.50	X	= \$.....
"Save Mono Lake" bumper sticker	\$1.00	X	= \$.....

TOTAL ORDER\$.....

Sales Tax - 6% (BART Counties 6.5%)

Postage and Handling
(Books & Calendar ADD 75¢ each)

(Patches & Stickers ADD 25¢ each)

TOTAL PRICE*\$.....

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*75% Tax Deductible

Make Check Payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society

Phone.....

Name.....

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I am also interested in volunteer work for GGAS

(Area of Interest).....

GGAS - Sponsored Tours

COSTA RICA, April 13-May 3, 1980

Each birder or birdwatcher should decide for himself whether Resplendent Quetzal is the world's most beautiful bird. Here's your opportunity to admire this species and perhaps 400+ others, including Three-wattled Bellbird, toucans, motmots, parrots, hummingbirds, manakins, tanagers and many others in well-preserved tropical habitats. No other tour offers nearly four days each at world-famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Finca La Selva rain forest and Las Cruces field station or as many other bird spots from dry savanna and coastal lagoons to volcanos and alpine paramo.

Your leaders will be Dr. Stephen F. Bailey and Karen L. Bailey (548-9507). Estimated cost for the basic two-week portion of the tour is \$1300 *all inclusive* (subject to air increases, of course), and the highly recommended third week extension to complete the tour should be about \$500. Jabiru to you, too!

ECUADOR and the GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, July 5-26, 1980

This tour includes some of the best tropical birding in the world with over 1400 species. Ecuador is a very beautiful and diverse Andean country straddling the equator. We will visit the Andean highlands, the Amazon basin, tundra-like grasslands, the west coast cloud and subtropical forests and also spend a week cruising through the extraordinary Galapagos archipelago.

The tour is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Zoological Society and will be led by Paul Greenfield and Mike Wihler. Paul is a leading expert on Ecuadorian birds and is currently writing a *Field Guide to the Birds of Ecuador* to be published by Princeton University Press. Mike has led numerous GGAS tours.

The trip will be limited to 10 or 15 people and the cost will be \$1590 plus air fare. For more information contact South American Wilderness Adventures, Inc., 1760 Solano Ave., #203, Berkeley, CA 94707, (415) 524-5111.

HAWAII, April 5-14, 1980

This natural history tour visits the islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai for native birds and plants and volcanic geology. Designed for both the beginning nature enthusiast and the advanced birder, we'll hike into Haleakala Crater, through the Alakai Swamp, around a treefern rainforest and down the Waimea Canyon. Alternative activities are planned for the more strenuous days.

The \$400 fee includes land transportation, lodging, snorkeling trip to a tropical reef, local naturalist guides and most meals. Leaders are Roger Harris (533-9508) and Meryl Sundove (388-5831). For itinerary and reservations contact South American Wilderness Adventures, 1760 Solano Ave., #203, Berkeley, CA 94707 (415) 524-5111.

Birding Classes

GGAS will sponsor the following classes this winter:

ALBANY: Dr. Stephen F. Bailey, *Gull* Observations Editor, will teach two classes at Albany Adult School. The second of his **Avian Biology** series (no prerequisite) will be a freewheeling discussion of geographic ecology, avian biogeography, race formation and speciation (including lumping and splitting). Class discussions emphasize probing and relating topics from a logical and empirical evolutionary perspective that hopefully will become intuitive habit. Readings will be recommended so that no student need feel unable to contribute. This class is especially recommended in conjunction with our GGAS trip to Costa Rica (see announcement on page 13). Avian Biology II meets 7-9 p.m. on ten consecutive Thursdays starting Jan. 10.

Steve will also offer a **Gull Identification Workshop**, combining five evening slide lectures and three morning field sessions. The goal is the identification of gull species and ages. Steve will present the plumages and identification marks plus the seasonal status and distribution of Northern California species. This difficult subject will be clarified through examination of patterns and natural variation; that is, identification by integrated understanding not oversimplified rules. The Tuesday evenings are January 8, 22, 29 and February 5 and 19, 7-9 p.m. Saturday mornings are January 12 and February 2 and 23, 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

For information call the school at 526-6811.

PIEDMONT: Susanne Luther will again teach two field ornithology classes through the Piedmont Adult School during its eight-week winter quarter.

"**The Birds of California**" begins Tuesday, January 8. Class hours are 7-9 p.m. This course is designed with lectures, slides and discussions to study field identification of the wide variety of birds that occur in the state with weekend field trips to prime spots to observe the spectacle of wintering species.

"**Birding in the Bay Area**" begins Thursday, January 10. Class hours are 9 a.m. to noon. These classes will meet in the field each week at a different spot to acquaint students with the wide variety of birds that winter in our diverse area. The first class will meet at the Piedmont Community Center; be sure to bring binoculars.

For more information on either of these two classes call the Piedmont Adult School at 653-9454.

Birding Grizzly and Joice Islands

Grizzly Island and its smaller companion, Joice Island, are state-owned game management tracts within the large Suisun Marsh located near Fairfield (county seat of Solano County) in the North Bay. They offer an easy access to the remarkable richness of this wetland which owes its extraordinary fertility to the alternation of fresh water from the combined Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the salty tides of an arm of San Francisco Bay.

Although mid-January, at the end of hunting season, is probably the most rewarding time to visit this area, it is open to birdwatching throughout the year and the marsh always has something of interest to nature buffs. Suisun Marsh's 55,000 acres are a lively remnant of a huge wetland which, 150 years ago, covered the whole upper bay and lower delta, providing an environment rich in plant and animal life almost impossible to imagine today.

The present marsh is only one-sixth of its former extent and only about one-sixth of what remains is protected. Even that is dependent on a fresh water supply which is increasingly pre-empted by the insatiable thirst of suburban lawns and swimming pools in Southern California. Within this fragment, however, can still be found a variety of plants and animals hard to match anywhere in the world. Even now the animal residents include many kinds of turtles, lizards and frogs, some 25 species of fish and six of snakes as well as muskrat, fox, raccoon, opossum, weasel, mink, badger, skunk, bobcat, rat, mice and 15 species of bats.

But it is the abundance of wintering birds which interests most visitors. Roughly a million ducks and geese migrate to the marsh and the vast flights of thousands of wings against a wintry sky and the sound of those thousands of voices from every direction reward the lucky spectator with a thrill unsurpassed in human experience.

Although hunters blast away from mid-October to mid-January, their effect on waterfowl populations is relatively slight and at the season's end huge numbers of geese and ducks remain to be seen at least through early February, after which the bird population begins to diminish.

To reach these areas, take I-80 north through Vallejo about 15 miles to Fairfield. Follow State Highway 12 east on Fairfield's main street

(N. Texas), making a jog to the right at the courthouse following the signs to Rio Vista. Leave town, again going east on Highway 12. About two miles east look for Grizzly Island Road, marked by a "Game Refuge" or "Wildlife Area" sign. Turn right into the open fields, watching the wetter spots for egrets and shorebirds (there are often flocks of yellowlegs in these puddles). The road winds about three miles over the Potrero Hills, rejoining the lowlands near the entrance to Joice Island.

If time permits, cross the wooden bridge over Cutoff Slough and walk the levee road to the right as far as you like past ponds and marsh, which in winter have ducks, geese and sometimes swans on the open water, American Bittern, rails and landbirds in the drier places. Watch for a Barn Owl and Violet-green Swallows near the bridge. Scan the dry fields to the northwest for hawks — Red-tails are common and in winter there are often Rough-legged and Ferruginous.

Return to the bridge and continue southeast about four-and-one-half miles toward Grizzly Island. As you cross the large bridge spanning Montezuma Slough, watch for rafts of Canvasbacks and other ducks present in fall and winter. The road follows a winding course across pasture land, often flooded in winter, which attracts Cinnamon Teal and other dabbling ducks. Watch the heaped-up, crumbling banks of the roadside ditches for Burrowing Owls; they are most often seen near their "borrowed" burrows and on fenceposts in the daytime. These ditches also shelter many American Coots, sometimes Common Gallinules and Pied-billed Grebes and occasionally a Green Heron.

Near the Grizzly Island visitor registration center the trees attract many Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Mockingbirds; the nearby row of eucalyptus along the road usually reveals a number of Red-tailed Hawks and occasionally a Barn Owl or an accipiter. You can pick up a map and bird list at the registration point. On weekdays, check with the rangers in the visitor office for the whereabouts of less common species.

As you leave the visitor center continuing generally south and then east, you will pass large ponds on the right with many ducks and shorebirds. This area is worth several stops (a scope will be useful). Do not forget the drier fields on the left side of the road; this is mouse habitat par excellence, attracting many buteos, White-tailed Kites, Marsh Hawks and, in some years, Short-eared Owls. Near the first left-hand bend

after leaving the visitor center be alert for flocks of dark geese grazing the dry fields. Snow Geese can sometimes be seen farther back from the road in these same fields.

About two miles farther, the hunter check station marks the start of a long, relatively straight section of the road. This is the spot where the small introduced population of Chukars has most often been seen. (Remember that these birds are shy, mobile and inconspicuous.) Continue southeast, watching the fields and sky for hawks. The ditches and their banks may have gallinules or other interesting inhabitants such as muskrat, weasel or even mink, and in many places the roadside shrubs are alive with Yellow-rumped Warblers and several kinds of sparrows. Watch for White-tailed Kites, hawks, swallows or even a Prairie Falcon.

In several places it is possible to walk out into the marsh on the right. Park in the numbered parking areas and follow the marked paths provided for hunters which are open to the non-hunting public outside the hunting season. From these paths you can sometimes get a much closer view of the ducks and shorebirds in the ponds. Chances of seeing mammals also increase as you leave the road.

The south end of Grizzly Island — roughly five miles from the check station — is marked by a grove of eucalyptus. Keep a lookout for the Tule Elk herd you've been warned about by the signs along the road. The elk, re-introduced here several years ago, have bred successfully since 1977 and appear to be thriving. Nonetheless, despite their large size and relative tameness, they are often hard to find. If you do find them, heed the signs' advice: keep your distance.

The eucalyptus grove is home to a pair of Great Horned Owls and many smaller birds, including shrikes, kinglets, Pine Siskins and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Perhaps attracted by this prey, other raptors often appear here. Do not leave the grove without scanning the marsh to the north; often the largest concentration of wintering ducks and geese is in the marshes and sloughs and this can produce impressive fly-ups of thousands of waterfowl.

Return the way you came. Take your time; the road is not built for speed. The different viewpoints and changing light will often reveal something you missed on your way in.

—PETER ALLEN

Editor's note: Peter Allen will lead a trip to this area January 20. See page 2.

Carl B. Koford

Dr. Carl B. Koford died at the age of 64 on Monday, December 3, 1979. In a memo circulated to staff and students at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley, its director, Dr. David B. Wake, wrote: "Carl was a naturalist; the last of his kind. His outstanding studies of large birds and mammals — California Condors, Vicuna, Mountain Lions, spotted cats, monkeys and others — were characterized by high quality data, deep understanding and clearly revealed personal knowledge of the animals and their environments.

"He was a rugged individualist, a truly independent person of great integrity and courage.

"The Museum was fortunate to have Carl as a Research Associate for many years, an association from which the institution profited greatly."

The members and Board of Directors of GGAS extend our sympathy to Dr. Koford's wife and family.

At the time this *Gull* goes to press, a Carl B. Koford Memorial Fund for field research in Latin America is being established by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. For details call the MVZ at 642-3567.

Our New Executive Director: Jerry Emory

Jerry Emory has been selected to replace Ingrid Lustig as Executive Director of GGAS. Ingrid will be traveling on to Alaska to work with conservation groups there. We wish her well, arriving as she will in the dead of winter, and thank her for her excellent tenure in the office.

Jerry is a recent graduate of Stanford. He majored in political science, went out for track and has an active interest in birding. He feels that working for GGAS will be much to his liking and he has already made a more than capable start.

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Happy
New Year





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THE GULL

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$20 per year (individual); \$25 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 50¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**